

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Families,

St. Mark's Gospel is the first gospel written around 65AD. Mark presents us the first words spoken by Jesus once he begins his public life. "Advance your thinking. Believe the Good News. The Kingdom of Heaven is close by." (Mark 1:15)

All through his public life Jesus attempts to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He uses parables, natural signs and continual repetitions. A person cannot see the Kingdom of God but can only hear it in the spoken word and feel it in the wind of the air.

Hearing about the Kingdom of God resembles music in the air. While music is heard by our ears, it penetrates to the deepest fibers of our being and invades positively our emotions. The Kingdom of God is invisible to the eyes.

Today we celebrate the heart of this Kingdom of God. The Father bestows this kingdom to his Son. The Book of Revelations celebrates the King in these words: "*Worthy are you to receive the scroll and break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God.*" (Revelation 5:10).

In the liturgy of our service, the congregation moves from the offertory to the consecration by a prayer we call the **Preface**. The **Preface** for the Feast of Christ the King is addressed to God the Father.

"Father, for you anointed your Only Begotten Son, and our Lord Jesus Christ, with the oil of gladness as eternal Priest and King of all creation, so that, by offering himself on the altar of the Cross as a spotless sacrifice to bring us peace, he might accomplish the mysteries of human redemption and, making all created things subject to his rule, he might present to the immensity of your majesty and eternal and universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. And so, with the Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts."

May the music of our liturgy and the music of life touch our hearts and announce to us audibly but invisibly the Kingdom of Heaven.

Gift to Be Sent to the Diocese of Jeremie, Haiti at Christmastime.

Father Wiczorek started years ago the Outreach of our parish to the impoverished nation of Haiti. Over the last several years we have addressed our donations to the Diocese of Jeremie at the tip of the long peninsula of Haiti. Our contributions are sent directly to Bishop Joseph Gontrand DeCoste, S.J.

Even though these are difficult times in our United States, they are even more so in the impoverished area of Haiti. If any of you would like to make a contribution during this time of Advent to our mission, please use the envelope in your packet, or simply mark on any envelope "Haiti". The donations will be sent on Monday, December 21st.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
November 22, 2020